



US Army Corps of Engineers ®

*New Orleans: Home
To You and the Corps*

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OVERALL PROJECT STATUS: 59 percent Complete

BETTER AND STRONGER

Currently, reconstruction of the New Orleans hurricane protection system is 59 percent complete and progressing on schedule.

Contracts for levee reconstruction were largely awarded to local construction firms in an effort to support local businesses (see page 2, "SSE: Getting back on their feet"). Construction is accelerating and work is performed around the clock, seven days a week.

"Our mission is to restore the damaged hurricane protection system to pre-Katrina levels. In fact, these levees and floodwalls will be better and stronger," said Colonel Setliff, TFG commander.

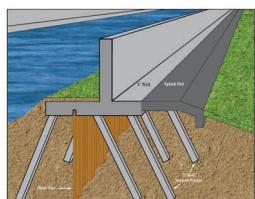
Task Force Guardian is the US Army Corps of Engineers team whose mission is to restore the greater New Orleans hurricane protection system to pre-Katrina levels by June 1—the start of hurricane season.

PROTECTING THE LOWER 9TH WARD

The Inner Harbor Navigation Canal, also known as the Industrial Canal, runs from Lake Pontchartrain to the Mississippi River. There are approximately 10 miles of levee and floodwalls in this heavily industrialized area.

Currently, the reconstruction in this 10-mile levee system is 67 percent complete and progressing on schedule.

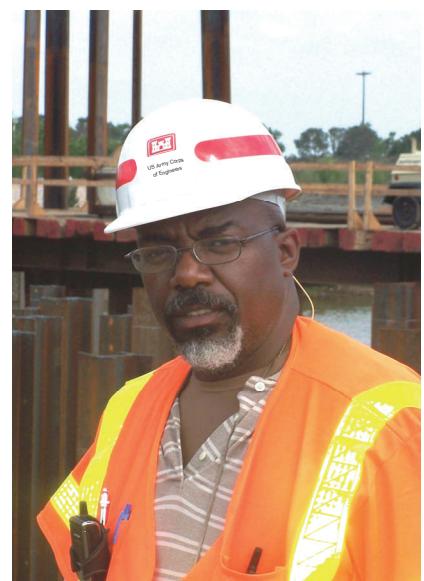
Between Florida Avenue and Claiborne Avenue, the rebuilding includes replacement of concrete I-walls with stronger concrete T-walls, supported by H-piles and sheet piling. The reconstruction also includes a splashpad to prevent erosion at the base of the levee structure.



T-walls are supported by H-piles and sheet piling creating a stronger design in levee protection.

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Community Spotlight



Leroy Smith, a New Orleans native, leads construction at the London Avenue Canal interim gated-closure structures. Leroy and his team oversee the quality of construction and assure the project stays on track for completion in time for hurricane season.

When Katrina made landfall, Leroy was helping the Corps in Iraq by rebuilding infrastructure and building base camp support for our Soldiers. He returned home only to find his home under five feet of water. While his home stands gutted and unoccupied, Leroy is committed to returning to his neighborhood.

"There is no doubt that we will return to our home," he said. "I know that these gates and pumps will provide the added protection that this area needs in case of the next storm surge."



SSE: GETTING BACK ON THEIR FEET

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers conducted the final inspection of repairs to the Creedmore drainage structure in St. Bernard Parish April 1. This work was performed by a local small business contractor, Southern Services & Equipment, Inc. (SSE).

"Our company is a testament to the Corps' commitment to local business," said Mindy Nunez, marketing director for Southern Services & Equipment, Inc.

"As St. Bernard residents, we lost our homes and our entire office and shop to the devastating floodwaters of Hurricane Katrina. The Corps has given us much-needed contracts since the storm, helping us get back on our feet as a business."

Colonel Setliff talks with Emmet Buras, Manager of Construction for Southern Services & Equipment, during the final inspection of the repair to the Creedmore drainage structure in St. Bernard Parish April 1.

OUTFALL CANALS: HANDLING THE SURGE

The London Avenue, 17th Street and Orleans Avenue outfall canals suffered damage from storm surge funneling through them during Katrina. The Corps of Engineers has come up with an interim solution to prevent the surge from causing the same damage during the next storm. Interim gated closure structures, which will be placed at the mouths of all three outfall canals, are being constructed to prevent storm surges from Lake Pontchartrain from entering the canals as it did during Katrina. The gates will be lowered during high surge conditions keeping the surge out while allowing the pump stations to continue operation.

A 40-year historical analysis shows these interim closure structures would have been closed for only three events, including Hurricane Katrina. The Corps and local officials agree this is the best solution to protect those who live behind the levees for the upcoming hurricane season until a long-term alternative is developed.



The interim gated closure structure frames are 45 feet tall and will be shipped up GIWW and placed in the outfall canals.

MRL RECONSTRUCTION

Plaquemines Parish is the operational center for the offshore oil and gas industry. The parish includes two levee systems, the Mississippi River Levees (MRL) and the New Orleans to Venice (NOV) levees, which protect this industrialized community. Together the systems include 162 miles of levees and 7 miles of floodwalls.

Currently, Plaquemines Parish has 77 percent of its protection restored. Thirteen of the 22 reconstruction areas have been completed, including all of the MRL system.

If you have questions or comments about this publication or projects under Task Force Guardian, please contact TFG Public Affairs at 504-862-2527 (toll-free 866-830-5038) or email us at b2tfpao@usace.army.mil. The Community Spotlight recognizes a resident of New Orleans who was affected by the hurricane and is working with the Corps to restore hurricane protection to pre-Katrina levels. Public Affairs is committed to working with the greater New Orleans area to provide you with important information about the progress of the projects under Task Force Guardian. You may also visit the TF Guardian website at <http://www.mvn.usace.army.mil/tfg/>.

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